



JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

SCOPING COMMENTS: WATER QUALITY

The MBNMS received numerous comments related to water quality during the public scoping process in 2001 and 2002. A large number of comments were related to non-point source pollution including concerns over various land use activities and their potential impacts on Sanctuary resources. Additional comments focused on the need for increased monitoring, inter-agency coordination and a significant number of comments were made concerning bacterial contamination of ocean waters. A summary of these comments is presented below, which are meant to be a qualitative rather than a quantitative display of comments received, as in some cases essentially the same comment was received multiple times from different individuals. Additional general public comments on topics that may potentially be related to water quality, such as education, enforcement, research and monitoring can be found on the Sanctuary's Jmpr website at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/scoping/>

Public comments related to Water Quality

- Sanctuary should mitigate urban and agricultural runoff. (MB/GF)
- Sanctuary should conduct a study on pesticide runoff from agriculture and golf courses. (MB)
- Increase funding for sewage system/storm drain infrastructure improvements. (MB/GF)
- No new regulations that will affect agriculture industry. (MB)
- Heavy metal concentration in fish should be addressed by guidelines set on discharges from any source on these metals. (All)
- Update MOA with State incorporate NPS Plan, Oceans Plan, Storm Water, BTTP, Consolidated THS, and TMDL Programs. (MB)
- More collaboration with state and local regulatory agencies on sewage discharge. (All)
- Sanctuary should conduct a study on nutrient runoff. (MB)
- Sanctuary should regulate the use of fertilizer through a permitting system. Should investigate alternatives and mitigation. (MB)
- Dogs should not be allowed off their leash in Spanish Bay and Pebble Beach, due to potential impacts to water quality. (MB)
- Sanctuaries should hold accountable, operations such as golf courses and nurseries that use chemicals or other pollutants, which enter into the ocean. (All)
- Utilize volunteers to educate dog owners and encourage leash use. (MB/GF)
- Sanctuary should conduct more education programs for informing farmers about agricultural runoff and pesticide use. Should encourage coastal farmers to incorporate organic methods. (MB)



Public Scoping Comments-Water Quality

- The existing Agriculture Action Plan should not be changed, in order to maintain momentum that has already built up. (MB)
- NOAA should continue to support the implementation of the Agricultural Action Plan and commit all necessary resources to ensure the success of its implementation. (MB)
- MBNMS agriculture action plan should have a specific timeline, goals, and audits. It should be open to the public, and not be self-regulating. (MB)
- Storm water discharges from new and existing development into the sanctuaries should be stringently controlled under the Clean Water Act. (All)
- Concerned about harmful algal blooms. Cooperative research should occur in the Sanctuary to learn how such blooms relate to non-point source pollution, and the consequences of such blooms in the Sanctuary. (All)
- Sanctuaries should develop programs to address the pollution that enters the sanctuaries from San Francisco Bay. (All)
- Consider a ban of all pets from beaches in the National Marine Sanctuary as part of the Resource Protection Program. (MB/GF)
- Sanctuaries should work with local jurisdictions, county health departments, regional water quality control boards, and other agencies to perform studies on near shore water quality to assess human health risks from the viral pathogens that have been documented on the shoreline. (MB/GF)
- Sanctuaries should assess the effect of pollution on the near shore ecosystems and to determine the sources of pollution and identify methods of prevention and control. (All)
- Recommend a halving of the amount and significant reduction of the toxicity and persistence, of pesticides, which are used in the Salinas, Carmel, and Pajaro Valleys, because of their immediate harm to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed anadromous species. (MB)
- Sanctuary should help cities and municipalities obtain funding for infrastructure and urban runoff and water quality improvement efforts. (MB)
- Work with local jurisdictions to remove impediments in streams and preserve habitats. (MB/GF)
- Sanctuary should increase collaboration with other agencies regarding wastewater treatment and water purification systems. MBNMS should take primary role in this collaboration, and should develop model education and implementation Programs. (MB)
- Sanctuary should develop a comprehensive plan to educate, encourage support of, and coordinate activities with all local governments and community organizations. Plan would address such topics as water quality, urban runoff, catch-basin improvements, street sweeping, best restaurant practices, posting for beach closures, Zone 5 practices, and sewage spills. (MB)
- Update of management plan should include a renegotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between various State and Federal agencies. The MOU should reflect the *Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program* that has received federal approval since Sanctuary designation. (All)
- Sanctuaries should work with local jurisdictions, county health departments, regional water quality control boards, and other agencies to study nearshore water quality. (GF, MB)
- Sanctuary should focus on riparian restoration and protection. (MB):
- Sewage plants-should have proper pre-treatment. (MB/GF)
- Concerned about repeated sewage spills and quality of water. (All)
- Concerned about sewage spills at San Carlos beach, which cause monthly closures. (MB)



Public Scoping Comments-Water Quality

- Sanctuary should regulate point and non-point sources of pollution in bay, to protect wildlife. (MB)
- Concerned about water quality of sub-watersheds and Elkhorn Slough. (MB)
- Concerned about impacts of storm drains to water quality, and the lack of public awareness about this issue. Sanctuary must address this issue. (MB)
- Concerned about sewage issue in Pacifica area. (MB)
- Concerned about the lack of water flowing through some creeks. (MB)
- Concerned about 2-stroke engines polluting Sanctuary waters. (All)
- Water Quality partnership is a model for how the Sanctuary should operate. (All)
- Sanctuary has done a good job with water quality program and reaching out to others. (MB)
- Concerned about the beach closures and water quality in San Mateo County. There are not enough sampling sites to adequately notify people of conditions. (MB)
- Dolan Road / Elkhorn Slough – Xmas court hazardous fluids pouring into slough. (MB)
- Nutrient levels should be reduced in our coastal waters. (All)
- Concerned about soap in runoff reaching the ocean. (All)
- Water quality affects surfing businesses and is their “bread and butter”. (MB/GF)
- Concerned about pollutants along Cannery Row. (MB)
- Concerned about sewage issue in Pacifica area. (MB)
- Concerned about the dumping of hundreds of tons of sediment annually by CAL Trans into MBNMS at the Waddell Bluffs area. (MB)
- Concerned about sewage from San Simeon Acres and Ragged Point Inn and Restaurant. These locations have inadequate sewage treatment. (MB)
- Concerned about dumpsites for hazardous material and dredged material in Sanctuary waters. (MB)
- Concerned about farm runoff at surfing locations (3 mile north of Santa Cruz). (MB)
- Sanctuary should mitigate urban and agricultural runoff. (MB)
- Concerned about scrubbing of heavy metal bottom paint; Paint residue ends up in the water. (All)
- Concerned about cumulative effects of continuous discharges such as that from desalination plants or power plants. (MB)
- Concerned about oil sheen in harbors. (MB/GF)
- Problem with inadequate notification of beach closures. (MB/GF)
- Concerned that harbors are not in Sanctuaries and subject to pollution. (MB/GF)
- Concerned about the effect that energy production has on water quality. (MB)
- Staff vacancies have seriously interfered with the Water Quality Protection Program’s ability to accomplish its goals. (MB)
- Concerned about the Union Pacific railroad line, which runs alongside the Elkhorn Slough. The Parson’s Slough Bridge is in poor condition and there is the threat of a toxic spill with potentially severe environmental damage. (MB)



Public Scoping Comments-Water Quality

- Concerned about the effect of certain activities, such as improper disposal of cat litter and introduction of contaminants into coastal waters, on southern sea otter populations.(MB)
- Be aware of Pacifica's new water quality system. (GF, MB)
- Erosion at San Francisco's sewage treatment plant is an issue. (GF, MB)
- Sewage from the village of San Simeon Acres is contaminating Sanctuary waters. (MB)
- Different measures should be taken against large polluters versus uneducated members of the public. Expand awareness through beach cleanup or other programs, which would incorporate education (in terms of what exactly are the violations). (MB/GF)
- What extent is data from Urban Watch being used? Make information more available to public through education, PSA, Nova, public broadcasting. General public needs information readily available without seeking Sanctuary. Possibly use a monthly newspaper insert. (MB)
- Sanctuary should educate public equally on all forms of water pollution. (All)
- Sanctuary should distinguish between past and current sources of contaminants in describing pollution in outreach materials and programs. (MB)
- The existing water quality action plans should be incorporated directly into the revised management plan. Don't start over with the next management plan. (MB)
- More rigorous monitoring of water quality. (All)
- There should be language put in the management plan that reflects the positive benefits of harbors. (MB/GF)
- Sanctuary should better address land based point and non-point source pollution. (MB/GF)
- Beach closure information should be made more readily available to the public. Better posting of water quality alerts at beaches and access points for swimmers, surfer, divers and kayakers. (MB/GF)
- More regulation of activities that affect water quality. (All)
- MBNMS should investigate all forms and sources of contaminants, not just agriculture. (MB)
- Sanctuary needs to do WQ monitoring in an ongoing program. (All)
- Marine Sanctuary's main job is to protect resources, should increase water quality protection projects. (All)
- Concerned about the effects of MTBE that has been found leaking into local streams. This could impact the immune systems of marine mammals. Sanctuary should investigate the effects of MTBE and other spills and discharges on aquatic species. (MB)
- Sanctuary should prioritize which water quality issues are most important and pursue them. (All)
- Sanctuary should lobby at all levels for improved water quality. (All)
- Implement and staff the Water Quality Protection Program. (MB)
- Expand Citizen Monitoring Network. More funds or resources to implement water quality protection program. (MB)
- Dedicate more effort to investigating and preventing point and non-point source pollution. (All)
- Water quality standards should be established in all federal waters within the sanctuaries. (All)
- Within state waters, water quality standards should be comprehensively reviewed to ensure that they adequately protect sanctuary resources. (GF/MB)



Public Scoping Comments-Water Quality

- Include on website, water quality data on various river systems affecting the Sanctuary. (All)
- Concerned about near-shore water quality. Sanctuary should conduct education and outreach regarding wastewater issues. (All)
- The revised management plan should emphasize the importance of fully implementing the recommendations contained in the Water Quality Protection Plans. Management plan should also identify additional WQ plans yet to be completed such as one dealing with point sources and one addressing riparian and wetland issues. (MB)
- Concerned about the effects of cooling water from the Duke Moss Landing power plant. Other options should be investigated that have less impact (sewage water).(MB)
- Concerned about near-shore water quality. Sanctuary should conduct education and outreach regarding wastewater issues. (MB/GF)
- Sanctuaries should investigate the root causes of water quality degradation. More resources should be made available for infrastructure of sewage treatment facilities. (All)
- MBNMS should develop a policy and guidelines to monitor water quality in streams, rivers, creeks, etc. emptying into the Sanctuary. These should be clean enough to swim in. (MB)
- Sanctuary should develop and implement a plan addressing riparian/wetland resources. (MB)
- Sanctuary should conduct a strong and diligent review and comment on all NPDES permits and projects in and affecting the Sanctuary. (MB)
- Review permits for city and county of San Francisco for discharge. (GF, MB)
- Sanctuary should be concerned about the impacts of desalination plants from construction and brine effluent discharge. (MB)
- Sanctuaries should encourage jurisdiction partnerships to combine desalination facilities, for public use only. (MB/GF)
- Sanctuary should work with harbors and marinas, on a program promoting alternatives to toxic bottom paints. (MB)
- Sanctuary should increase collaboration with other agencies regarding wastewater treatment and water purification systems. MBNMS should take primary role in this collaboration, and should develop model education and implementation Programs. (MB)
- Concerned about intake pipelines for power plants. Entrainment and impingement kill millions of larvae and small species. Sanctuary should impose limitations or measures to reduce these types of impacts. (MB)
- Sanctuary should address the issue of run off occurring from restaurants. (MB)
- Sanctuaries should take a far more active role in reviewing point source discharge permits issued by the regional water quality control boards to ensure that permit conditions are sufficiently stringent to protect sanctuary resources (especially with respect to storm water runoff). (All)
- Sanctuary should explore progressive technology for purification of private and municipal wastewater. (MB)/GF)
- Tertiary treatment should be required for all sewer systems that empty into sanctuaries. (All)